# TALK TO ME

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1 **INT. MIA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT** 1

A young girl's hand taps on her knee. A man's hand reaches out to touch her.

The girl - MIA, 16, short and plump - pulls away, crossing her arms.

The man - her father, MAX, 45, out of shape and out of focus - looks dejected.

Mia moves to the mantle where a candle burns in front of a framed photo of her late mother, RHEA, 35.

Three small statues stand nearby - Mary, Jesus and a lamb.

Mia sneezes and blows her nose, clearly sick.

Shapes of people move by. Snatches of conversation.

WOMAN #1 (O.S.)
He finally finished the kitchen.

MAN #1
It looks good. But, Jesus, I can't believe she's been gone three years.

WOMAN #2
Next year we can do it at my place if that makes it easier.

Off-screen, someone catches Mia's attention.

We are in a working-class suburban home. Winter light silhouettes a dozen people saying goodbye. Empty cups and plates sit on the coffee table.

Only Mia is in focus.

At the door she smiles and politely accepts kisses from relatives.

A little OLD LADY, 80, whispers in her ear.

OLD LADY
Take care of Dad.

Mia smiles, but it doesn't reach her eyes.

The door closes. Mia is alone with her father.

Mia collects cups and plates, piling them one on top of the other.

MAX
Leave those. I'll do them later.

MIA
(continuing)
I don't want ants.

She deliberately avoids eye contact.

2 **INT. MIA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT** 2

A renovated interior. Everything's new, particularly the electric oven. Mia washes dishes while Max hovers behind her.

MAX
You okay, Mi?

Mia turns off the tap.

MIA
What?

MAX
You okay?

MIA
Just a cold, Dad.

MAX
This time of year is just ... I dread it. I dread it, Mi.

Max starts to sob. Mia has no idea how to respond.

She keeps washing the dishes. Her phone vibrates in her pocket. Relieved, she whips it out.

MIA
(to phone)
Hey ... Okay. Now?

Mia dries her hands on the tea towel.

MIA (CONT'D)
Okay.
(to Max)
I gotta go.

She snatches up keys from the counter. Max wipes his eyes.

MAX
Mia.

MIA
I'll finish when I get back.
(to phone)
Where is it?

As the door SLAMS, the candle flutters, but keeps burning.

3 **EXT. SOCCER CLUB - NIGHT** 3

RILEY, 12, olive-skinned and skinny in shorts and a jersey, stands by an emptying car park after soccer practice. He hangs up his phone.

Behind him stands JAMES, 13, plump and freckled, with a bag slung over his shoulder.

JAMES
Where's your mum, bro?

RILEY
At work. My stupid sister's meant to be picking me up.

JAMES
Well, my fat mum's meant to be picking me up. She's eating dick somewhere, probably.

James pulls out a pack of cigarettes from his bag.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I stole these from her.

RILEY
You don't smoke.

JAMES
I know I don't smoke. But everyone else does so I sell them.

James puts a cigarette in his mouth.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Do I look cool or what, brah?

RILEY
You look disgusting.

JAMES
Wanna know who I sold some to?

RILEY
Who?

JAMES
Alex Varolii.

RILEY
No, you didn't.

JAMES
I did, dude. And he thinks it's so cool.

James takes a fake puff, imitating Alex.

JAMES (CONT'D)
"Bloody hell, man. I'm smoking 'cause I just can't deal with shit".
(then)
Remember when he hooked up with Sarah in year 7 and had to bring it up in every conversation.

Riley laughs.

JAMES (CONT'D)
"Bloody hell, man. Hooked up with Sarah again. She's like the only chick in Year 7 with tits. Should've smashed her".

James takes another fake puff. He pulls a lighter from his bag.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I've had tits since year 3. Don't see me bragging.

James tries to light the cigarette.

JAMES (CONT'D)
He invited me to his house.

RILEY
Who?

JAMES
Alex.

RILEY
For what?

JAMES
To hang.

RILEY
I thought you hated him.

JAMES
I did, but whatever. He's alright.

James lights the cigarette. He stares at it.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Reckon it gives you cancer straight away?

RILEY
I don't know. Don't smoke it.

James returns to his Alex Varolii impersonation.

JAMES
“Only chick in Year Seven. Swear to god”.

James takes a quick puff, coughing immediately.

JAMES (CONT’D)
Yuck. Disgusting.

RILEY
You’re gonna get cancer, dumbass.

JAMES
Doesn’t happen straight away, retard.

James offers the cigarette to Riley. He shakes his head in refusal.

JAMES (CONT’D)
Bro, don’t be a pussy.

RILEY
I hate the smell.

JAMES
(resentful)
Actual pussy, bro. I need a new mate, I reckon.

MIA (O.S.)
Riley!

Mia looks out from her car as she pulls up. She’s in a winter coat and beanie.

MIA (CONT’D)
You little bogan.

RILEY
We weren’t actually smoking it.

JAMES
He’s lying. We downed a whole packet.

RILEY
We didn’t.

Riley runs over to the car and hugs Mia through the window.

MIA
(to James)
Can I have one?

JAMES
For five bucks, yeah.

MIA
I got two bucks?

JAMES
Alright, stinge. Deal.

James hands Mia a cigarette. Mia flicks him some money.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I'm gonna buy a sneaky condom with this.

Mia laughs as Riley climbs in the passenger seat.

MIA
You need a lift anywhere?

JAMES
My mum will be here soon.

MIA
Okay, well call Riley if she doesn't rock up.

The car pulls away.

RILEY
Bye!

JAMES
Seeya, pussy!

James watches the red lights recede. He turns and looks the other way for his own lift.

4 **INT. MIA'S CAR - NIGHT** 4

Mia blows her nose with one hand and drives with the other. Riley buckles his seat belt.

MIA
She didn't pick you up?

RILEY
No.

MIA
Or answer your calls?

RILEY
No!

MIA
Welcome to my world.

RILEY
Are youse fighting or something?

MIA
No, she's just dick-whipped. She's been talking with this guy ...

RILEY
Daniel.

MIA
Yeah. You met him?

RILEY
He's over like every night when mum's gone.

MIA
He stays over?

RILEY
Nah, he just comes over and they lock the door. Even when she's on the phone to him ... she locks the door.

MIA
How long does he stay for?

RILEY
Hours.

Mia notices something up ahead.

MIA
Woah. Look.

A dog lies crumpled by the side of the road. Mia pulls over.

RILEY
What is it?

She unbuckles her seat belt.

MIA
A dog. Stay in the car.

5 **EXT. STREET - NIGHT** 5

Mia exits the car.

She approaches the dog, its breath steaming in the cold air. Its body is twisted.

MIA
Dammit.

She kneels down by the dog. It's alive and in pain.

MIA (CONT'D)
You poor thing.

Mia turns to see Riley standing outside the car, looking down at the dog with sympathetic eyes.

MIA (CONT'D)
Someone hit him.

RILEY
What do we do?

MIA
There's nothing we *can* do. It doesn't even have a collar.

RILEY
Call a vet?

MIA
Look at it. I don't think that'll help.

RILEY
We can't leave it like this.

The dog cries. Mia looks pained.

6 **EXT. MIA'S CAR - NIGHT** 6

The car starts. Taillights glow. The car reverses on a heading for the dog.

Inches from its head, the car stops.

7 **INT. MIA'S CAR - NIGHT** 7

Mia grips the wheel. Riley looks from his window to Mia.

Mia puts the car in drive.

RILEY
What are you doing?

MIA
I can't do it.

Mia pulls away from the dog and drives.

RILEY
Mia! No! We can't leave it like that.

MIA
Another car will come.

Mia looks in the rearview mirror. The dog disappears into darkness.

Riley grabs Mia's arm.

RILEY
It's crying, Mia.

MIA
Riley, I'm driving.

RILEY
Mia, come on.

MIA
No. Stop. It's alright, okay?
Relax. It'll be fine.

Mia's worried face doesn't match her words.

8 **INT. JADE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT** 8

JADE, 16, olive-skinned in track pants and t-shirt, opens the door, a phone to her ear. This is Riley's older sister.

JADE
Oh, what the hell?

Mia and Riley burst into the room.

COOKIE, an energetic labrador, runs in and jumps on the bed.

The friends embrace, but it's clear that Jade is a bit annoyed that Mia is here uninvited.

JADE (CONT'D)
(sarcastic)
Love it when you rock up uninvited.

MIA
Love it when you steal my ex boyfriend.

JADE
How are you?

MIA
Traumatised. I had to murder a dying dog and couldn't commit.

JADE
What?
(to phone)
Call you back in a sec.

Jade hangs up. Mia jumps on Jade's bed with Cookie.

MIA
I know, I'm going to hell. Thanks for ignoring my calls, by the way.

JADE
I wasn't ignoring. I've been busy.

MIA
Yeah, busy ignoring me.

RILEY
Thanks for picking me up too.

JADE
Oh crap, your Soccer shit.

RILEY
Yeah, Jade. I was freezing!

JADE
Moo moo, Riley. Mia lives two minutes from there.

RILEY
I'm telling Mum. Cookie!

JADE
You're just mad 'cause you're crap at soccer and training's not helping.

Cookie jumps off the bed and follows Riley out the room.

JADE (CONT'D)
(calling out)
You're not telling Mum!

RILEY
(calling back)
Yes, I am!

Jade looks back at Mia.

JADE
Are you wearing my jumper, Mia?

MIA
You left it at my house.

JADE
You're gonna stretch it.

MIA
I'm not that fat, bitch!

Jade's phone rings.

MIA (CONT'D)
Don't answer it, Jade. I saw a dying dog and I need consoling.

Jade answers the phone.

Mia rolls her eyes and pulls her own phone out.

JADE
(to phone)
I'll call you back. Bye.

She hangs up.

Mia watches a Snapchat clip on her phone: A KID is tied to a couch, he is sitting upside down - his eyes are white.

JADE (CONT'D)
You in the group chat?

MIA
Yeah, Hayley's video. She's doing it again tonight.

Mia gives Jade a "let's do this" look.

JADE
(off Mia's look)
Mia, I can't.

MIA
To see if it's real!

JADE
I can't!

JADE (CONT'D)
Not tonight, Mia. Please.

MIA
It was my mum's three years today. And everyone was over and I was miserable. I have a cold, I saw a dying dog and I'm starting to think killing yourself is genetic.

JADE
Don't say things like that.

MIA
My dad was crying the whole time and I just need to get away from it. I need to be around you and Riley or I need Daniel to come give my gucci attention.

Jade laughs.

JADE
Daniel's not touching your "gucci", Mia.

MIA
He was my boyfriend before yours.

JADE
Youse held hands like once like ten years ago.

MIA
Jade! It was my mum's three years. Please. Wanna take my mind off it.

Jade's face softens.

JADE
Okay. Daniel can come, yeah?

MIA
Depends. Is he touching my gucci?

Jade hits her with the pillow. Her phone rings.

Jade answers and holds up her fingers - "five more mins".

MIA (CONT'D)
Alright, I'll babysit Riley - the better sibling.

Mia leaves the room.

Jade pops her head out.

JADE
(calling out after her)
You can't talk about your gucci with Riley.

9 **INT. KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT** 9

Riley's homework is sprawled out on the kitchen table. Mia helps him.

SUE, 40s, Jade's Mum, exhausted, enters the living room, carrying one too many groceries.

Mia shoots up from her chair, excited to see her.

MIA
Sue! Need a hand?

Sue hands off some groceries to Mia.

SUE
"Can I help?" "Yes you can, Riley, thanks for asking".

Riley doesn't even look up

SUE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry I couldn't come to your mum's thing today. I couldn't get out of my shift.

MIA
It's fine.

SUE
How was it? Better that last year?

MIA
Not really.

SUE
How's your dad?

Mia wraps her arms around her and hugs her tight.

SUE (CONT'D)
You poor thing.

Mia closes her eyes, loving the hug. It's the kind of hug we all want when we are at our lowest. They are silent together. Sue knows Mia just needs to feel loved, safe and held.

MIA
I don't want to cry. You'll make me cry.

SUE
(playfully)
It's okay to cry.

Mia sneezes.

MIA
I've got the worst cold, Sue.

Sue presses her hand against her forehead.

SUE
It's just a cold. Your body will kick it out soon.

Cookie runs up.

SUE (CONT'D)
You wanna take him out for me? He'll shit everywhere if he stays inside.

Mia laughs and nods, leading Cookie away. Sue heads to her bedroom.

10 **INT. SUE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT** 10

Jade gently pushes the door open and peeks in.

JADE
Mum, you going to sleep?

Sue applies face cream at a vanity cluttered with cosmetics, perfume and photos. She wears a ratty dressing gown.

SUE
Why, you sneaking out?

JADE
Why do you always think I'm sneaking out or sleeping around?

SUE
You don't ask if I'm going to sleep unless you're sneaking out, Jade. Is it to see Daniel?

JADE
Even if it was, he's Christian. He won't do anything.

SUE
He's still got a dick, Jade. You sneaking out for him?

JADE
I'm not sneaking out.

SUE
(unconvinced)
Okay.

JADE
God. Night.

Jade exits.

SUE
Don't wake Riley on the way in.

11 **INT. JADE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT** 11

Mia stares at three framed photos of Jade, Riley and Sue on the wall - frozen moments of happiness.

We see her reflection in the glass of a photo like she's a part of it. Mia smiles, wistful.

Jade enters.

MIA
We sneaking out now?

Jade hushes her and pushes her away from Sue's bedroom, almost tripping over Cookie.

They get to the front door where Riley waits in his coat.

JADE
What are you doing? Go to bed.

RILEY
(defiant)
Mia said I can come.

Jade daggers Mia.

MIA
How can I say no to him?

JADE
You're not coming.

RILEY
I'll tell mum.

JADE
She pretty much knows.

RILEY
About you forgetting me tonight.

Jade flinches.

12 **EXT. ROAD - NIGHT** 12

Jade and Mia walk down the middle of the road. Riley trails behind.

Mia shows Jade another clip: a different KID is tied to a chair. He shakes his head with impossible speed.

JADE
I swear it's fake.

MIA
I don't know.

JADE
It's one thousand percent a trick.

MIA
How would she fake that? Why would she?

JADE
“Why would she”? She’s such an attention whore. She’s trying to get everyone to go to her house and talk about her and you’ve fallen for it.

MIA
We’ll see when we get there.

Jade rolls her eyes.

MIA (CONT’D)
Sorry for ruining your phone date.

JADE
Apology not accepted.

MIA
You’re gonna be pregnant by next month, I swear.

JADE
“Pregnant”. He hasn’t even kissed me yet.

MIA
You’ve been talking to him for like three months. What is that?

RILEY
Even I’ve kissed Jazzie.

JADE
The girl with the horse mouth? You shouldn’t be kissing horses, Riley.

RILEY
Shut up, bitch.

JADE
Don’t call me bitch. You bitch. You’re the one who called her horse mouth.

RILEY
Yeah, when she was leaving me on read.

Jade snorts like a horse. Riley kicks her. Mia sneezes.

MIA
Oh my god, cold! Die in a hole!

13 **EXT. HAYLEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT** 13

Middle class suburban. Typical teen first cars parked along the street. But no sound comes from the dark house.

Jade peers into the living room window.

JADE
No one’s even home?

MIA
They’re in the back room.

Mia leads the siblings to side of the house.

14 **INT. HAYLEY’S BACK ROOM - NIGHT** 14

HAYLEY, 17, impatient, pulls the back room door open. Music spills out. She scrunches up a beer can and drops it in the bin beside her.

HAYLEY
(sarcastic)
Only an hour late. Awesome.

JADE
I was waiting for mum to sleep.

HALEY
(referring to Riley)
And we’re babysitting too, apparently.

Mia, Jade and Riley enter.

There are maybe 20 teenagers in here, a mix of types and styles - all drinking.

Jade squeezes through a group of amped-up girls.

She spots Hayley’s thin brother JOSS, 19, and bro friend DION, 17. They are talking animatedly between gulps of beer to DANIEL, 18, sensitive-looking and confused. Jade’s eyes light up.

She approaches and taps him on the arm. He turns and smiles - he’s cute, like her.

DANIEL
Finally.

They hug, crazy for one another.

JADE
Sorry for dragging you out.

DANIEL
I wasn't doing anything anyway.

Riley and Mia emerge from the crowd. Riley waves at Daniel.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Hey, man.

MIA
Hi Ex-boyfriend. I better get a hug too!

Mia throws herself into a hug. She squeezes him.

MIA (CONT'D)
Ex-boyfriend, I'm lonely. Hold me.

Mia jokingly doesn't let go.

DANIEL
Okay, Mia.

Daniel uncomfortably forces himself out of the hug, just as Joss and Dion wrap their arms around the two, joining in.

JOSS
Can we play already?!

DION
This is gonna be wild!

CUT TO:

14A MOMENTS LATER 14A

The music has stopped. Hayley locks the door and shuts the curtain. Jade drinks.

JADE
So, what's up? Faking another video?

HAYLEY
You actually think that's fake?

JADE
I *know* it is.

Everyone surrounds a lamplit table. Joss pulls out a bundle - something wrapped in a T-shirt. Dion excitedly drums. A TALL TEEN raises his fist.

TEEN
Woooooo!

Joss unwraps it - a ceramic hand jutting out from a board.

JADE
Is that a ... PiddyPops T-shirt?

The T-shirt has a picture of a cartoon cat on it running away from Cerberus, the three-headed dog.

JOSS
Still the greatest cartoon ever made. Hands down.

DION
(disagreeing)
Uh, Spongebob?

Dion does the Spongebob laugh. Joss places the hand on the ground.

JOSS
Be pretty sick to hook the kid up.

Everyone looks at Riley. A couple of “Oooooh”s from the crowd.

HAYLEY
He’s not doing it.

DION
Imagine it, though.

HAYLEY
He’s not doing it, Dion.

Dion shrugs.

DION
More for me.

Dion lunges for the hand. Joss pulls it back.

JOSS
You’re freakin’ hooked.

DION
No shit.

As Dion and Joss continue to spar, Mia notices Jade and Daniel’s fingers touching, almost holding hands.

Mia feels jealous.

MIA
I wanna do it.

DION
Alright! Mia’s gonna do it!

Everyone cheers.

CROWD
Mia! Mia! Mia!

HAYLEY
Okay, Mia. Sit upside down there.

Hayley points to a chair at the head of the table. Mia sits on the chair and swings upside down.

HAYLEY (CONT'D)
Tie her.

Dion produces rope from beneath the table, grinning.

MIA
Ooooh. Kinky.

Riley takes a seat, a bit concerned. He leans into Jade.

RILEY
What are we playing?

JADE
It's nothing, Riley. Don't worry.
(looking to Haley)
Haley's tricked everyone.

HALEY
We'll see. Someone time it. This can't go for more than 90 seconds.

MIA
What happens after 90 seconds?

HALEY
They'll want to stay.

Jade rolls her eyes.

The room grows quiet as everyone watches with RAPT ATTENTION.

Joss tightens the ropes.

MIA
Dude.

JOSS
Trust me. It's gotta be tight.

Joss lights a candle.

HAYLEY
Alright, put your hand on it.

Mia turns to the ceramic hand, jutting from the board sitting on the floor. It looks harmless.

She places her hand on it.

HAYLEY (CONT'D)
No like hold it.

Mia slips her hand into the open ceramic palm. Its fingers are positioned to receive a grasp.

HAYLEY (CONT'D)
Okay. Now say, "Talk to me".

Jade scoffs.

MIA
Talk to me.

Mia looks to everyone watching. Half a dozen phones are raised, recording her, faces lit by the glow.

Mia looks back - the ceramic hand is gone.

She's holding hands with a *WRINKLED OLD MAN*.

He looks distraught.

Mia SCREAMS and breaks her hand free. The old man vanishes.

MIA (CONT'D)
Oh my god. Oh my god. What the fuck? No. What the fuck?

Everyone laughs and hoots. Daniel is immediately interested - *this is REAL?*

DION
Flip her!

JADE
Mia, what?

Joss pulls the chair forward, sitting Mia upright.

MIA
Untie me. Who the hell was that?

HAYLEY
I dunno. It changes every time.

DANIEL
You can't be serious.

MIA
Where'd he go?

HAYLEY
Gone. You didn't do it right. You have to say, "Come in". Come on.

MIA
I'm flipping out.

JADE
Mia, shut up.

MIA
Someone was sitting there, I swear to fuck.

HAYLEY
Do it again and say, “Come in”. Trust me.

Joss pulls Mia’s chair backwards, flipping her upside down.

Mia turns back to the hand, now TERRIFIED of it.

Daniel and Jade watch, intrigued.

Shaking, Mia reaches for the hand, screaming as she interlocks fingers. Everyone laughs. TEENS call out.

TEEN 1
DO IT!

TEEN 2
WHOOOOOOO!

HAYLEY
Come on, Mia.

MIA
Talk ... Talk to me.

We don’t see what Mia sees, but SOMETHING is here. She’s rattled and thrilled at the same time.

MIA (CONT’D)
Oh my god. Whoa, dude.

HAYLEY
Say it.

MIA
I can’t!

EVERYONE
Say it! Say it!

Mia winces, steels herself and inhales. She closes her eyes.

MIA
Come in.

Mia’s grip tightens. Her eyes SHOOT open. She stares up, unblinking.

JOSS
Someone timing it?

DION
Yep!

Dion lifts his phone and flicks on the timer.

Joss pulls the chair, sitting Mia upright.

Mia looks around the room in awe. She nods.

She lets out a groan.

And then another.

She nods faster.

Another groan.

Faster.

Groan.

Dion clicks his fingers in her face. Mia looks at him.

Dion waves slowly. Mia waves back at the same speed.

There are goosebumps all over her skin.

Dion pulls his cheek down, drooping his eye.

Mia smiles as she copies him.

Dion mimes sucking a dick, his tongue in his cheek.

Mia copies. Dion laughs.

Mia's irises WIDEN. She pulls at her restraints.

MIA
**Oh, darlings. Naughty darlings.**

Mia clicks her tongue.

Joss and Dion are thrilled, grabbing one another with excitement.

MIA (CONT'D)
**Found me. You found me. Foooound me.**

JADE
(awed)
Is it real?

JOSS
One thousand percent.

Jade stares, mouth open. Dion leans in.

DION
How cool is it?

Mia's eyes fall on Riley.

MIA
**Oooooh. Pretty boy. Touch me, pretty boy. Touch meeeeee!**

Mia licks her lips seductively. Daniel scoffs.

MIA (CONT'D)
**Laugh fa ... Fa ... fa ... FAGGOT. FAGGOT!**

The room EXPLODES with laughter. Mia joins in.

DION
Oh, they like you.

Mia's body convulses and she turns pale.

Spit flies from her mouth as the shaking becomes more violent.

The lights flicker.

Mia's eyes grow IMPOSSIBLY WIDE.

MIA
**I'M GOING TO FUCKING KILL YOU ALL.**

SILENCE.

Then ...

Everyone CHEERS. Joss laughs and cracks another beer.

JOSS
This one's cooked!

Mia's face inflates as books BLOW OUT off the bookshelf. Teens cover their heads, shield their bodies.

The energy in the room is ELECTRIC. Everyone feeds off of it, smiles wide and toothy.

DION
Yeah, you fuck that shit up!

The back door snaps open breaking the lock. It closes and shuts, closes and shuts. Wild CHEERS and APPLAUSE from the crowd.

Mia's chair levitates. The room is ALIVE. Dion throws his arm around Joss and the two share a look - *this is AWESOME!*

Mia snaps her head to the side and then the other.

She stares right at Riley, smiling.

JADE
(whispers)
**Eat ya .... Eaaaaat yaaaaa. I'll eat ya. ... COCK.**

Mia thrusts her hips forward, dry humping the air.

JADE (CONT'D)
**I'LL SPLIT YOU, PRETTY BOY.**

She laughs a deep, disturbing cackle.

Dion laughs, but Jade, Riley and Hayley look freaked out.

MIA
**I'LL SPLIT YA!! I'LL FUCK YA. FUCK YA. FUCKING KILL YOU.**

DION
85 seconds.

HALEY
Close it. Go, go, go.

Joss blows out the candle as Dion grabs Mia's hands. She squeals, spitting blood right into his face.

He tries to pry the hand from her, but can't. A BEEFY TEEN helps and eventually succeeds in loosening her grip.

The hand tumbles.

JOSS
Watch the hand!

The chair THUDS to the ground.

Lights return.

Joss grabs the hand, making sure it's unharmed.

Dion unties Mia. She looks around at everyone in the room holding their breath, watching.

Mia bursts out laughing in her own voice, high as a kite.

Hayley looks relieved.

JADE
Holy shit.

MIA
That was ... AMAZING!

Everyone goes nuts, CHEERING and APPLAUDING.

JOSS
I gotta have a go.

DION
No, it's my turn!

The group fights among themselves for who goes next, laughing, energized and desperate for a taste.

Mia looks exhilarated - GIDDY - from her first spiritual possession.

15 **INT. JADE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT** 15

The door opens a crack. Riley peers in at Jade and whispers.

RILEY
Jade? Jade? You awake?

Jade is on her phone, half asleep.

JADE
You're not sleeping in here.

The door creaks further open revealing the sleeping bag over his shoulder and silk pillow in his hand.

RILEY
Just for a bit.

JADE
You haven't slept in here since you like were nine, Riley.

RILEY
I'll be on the floor. You won't notice me.

JADE
No.

RILEY
I'll do dishes for a month.

JADE
Riley, piss off, will ya?

Resigned, Riley shuts the door.

16 **INT. JADE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT** 16

The sleeping bag drags on the floor behind his bare feet as Riley heads to the living room.

It's dark, except for the three red standby lights on the TV, DVD and cable.

Riley creeps toward the couch. A head pops up.

MIA
What a bitch.

RILEY
She doesn't let me do anything anymore. Won't even talk to me.

MIA
She just thinks you're too old for her bed.

RILEY
She's jealous 'cause I'm the favorite and she's not.

MIA
(amused)
Arrogant much?

RILEY
Can I sleep with you?

MIA
It's your house.

Riley crawls onto the futon, lying down beside Mia.

Raindrops reflect on them from the window. Mia blows her nose.

RILEY
Are you still possessed?

MIA
No.

RILEY
How can you be sure?

MIA
'Cause I feel normal. They had their fun and we kicked em out. It was a joyride for them.

RILEY
And for you.

MIA
Yeah.

RILEY
What'd it feel like?

MIA
I don't know. Like my whole body was ... glowing or something.
(MORE)

MIA (CONT'D)
I felt like I was flying. I could see and feel and hear everything, but I was in the passenger seat or something. It was amazing.
(then)
Sorry for scaring you.

RILEY
It’s okay. I know it wasn’t you.

They sit in silence for a moment, listening to the rain pattering on the roof.

RILEY (CONT’D)
Does this mean heaven isn’t real?

MIA
Maybe. Or maybe it means it is real and some people are left behind.

The two stare at the shadows on the ceiling.

16A LATER 16A

Riley is fast asleep. His phone is still on and playing a video.

Mia’s hand comes into frame, switches the phone off and pulls Riley’s blanket up to his chin.

Her hand pulls out of frame.

Another hand returns.

But it’s not a girl’s hand.

*It’s a man’s.*

His hand is wrinkled and weathered, dirt under his nails, sores on his skin.

The aged fingers run down Riley’s face, caressing him.

A LOUD CLANGING!

17 **EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY** 17

The loud clanging belongs to a school bell. Riley crosses the yard.

He stops, noticing James talking to ALEX VARLOII. Alex is 13, but looks and acts a lot older.

James laughs, his body language is different, more vibrant.

18 **INT/EXT. SCHOOL CAR PARK/MIA'S CAR - DAY** 18

School is out. Year 12 students stand by their cars. They joke and laugh.

James jumps into the backseat of Mia's car, Riley follows.

JAMES
You're making it up.

Mia is confused.

JAMES (CONT'D)
My brother does Youtube and he says the video's fake.

MIA
I thought you weren't meant to say anything, Riley.

RILEY
It wasn't me. He's seen the video.

MIA
Who showed you the video?

James points to Riley.

RILEY
Wow. Thanks, dumbass.

JAMES
All good, pussy.

RILEY
Stop calling me that.

MIA
I'm starting to think you're a bad influence, James.

JAMES
I'm a bad influence and you're a bad actor. The video sucks. It's fake.

MIA
No.

JAMES
Yes.

MIA
It happened.

JAMES
Prove it.

RILEY
I wasn't lying.

JAMES
Alex is right. You are a baby.

RILEY
I'm not.

JAMES
You are. You're a fetus. You're jizz. That's your new name. Jizz! Jizz the Sperm Worm.

Mia spots Jade and Daniel. She honks her horn and waves them over. They approach.

RILEY
(to Mia)
How's your cold?

MIA
Gone finally, thank god.

Jade and Daniel lean in the window.

JADE
(re: James)
You taking him home?

MIA
No, we were just talking. What are you doing tonight?

Jade shoots her a look - *don't ruin this.*

JADE
I'm with Daniel.

MIA
We gotta do it again. You have to try the hand.

JADE
Nah, Mia. I don't. We're busy.

MIA
Jade, seriously. You have no idea how incredible it is.

JADE
Mia ...

MIA
It's not a whole night thing.

DANIEL
We’re just at yours. We could ... for a bit. If they want.

MIA
I think my ex wants a sneaky go.

DANIEL
I’m keen to try it.

MIA
Big balls ex. Me likey.

Jade is a bit hurt.

JADE
Alright, I’ll talk to Hayley.

Jade crosses the carpark. Hayley sits on the hood of her car, texting.

JADE (CONT’D)
You busy tonight?

Hayley doesn't look up from her phone.

HAYLEY
You want a turn don’t you?

JADE
Daniel does.

HAYLEY
What do I get out of it?

JADE
My company. That’s pretty cool, I reckon.

Hayley looks up.

HAYLEY
I want a bottle of Midori.

JADE
Mum’s got two in the cabinet.

HAYLEY
I can’t do mine. The door broke last time. Dad’s pissed.

JADE
My house, then.

HAYLEY
And I got a party tonight so I’m gone by eleven.

JADE
Mum leaves at 9 so ...

HAYLEY
I'll be there at 10.

Jade nods, looks across the car park to Mia and throws up a thumb of approval.

IN MIA'S CAR

Mia grins, excited.

MIA
Alright.

RILEY
Think I could have a go tonight?

MIA
I don't know. It's freakin' amazing, BUT it's also pretty intense. What kind of babysitters would we be if we let you mess around with this kind of Dark Arts shit?

RILEY
Epic ones.

MIA
True.

Mia, anticipating tonight, smiles.

MIA (CONT'D)
I can't wait.

RILEY
Me neither.

MIA
(to James)
You gonna be able to get out tonight for the experience of your life?

JAMES
My mum doesn't know I exist.

James goes to turn away.

MIA
James.

JAMES
What?

MIA
Don’t call him Jizz.

19 **INT. JADE’S FRONT DOOR - NIGHT** 19

Sue opens the door. Daniel stands on the doorstep. His sedan is parked on the street behind him.

SUE
Can I help you?

DANIEL
Hi. Is Jade home?

Sue takes a moment - something’s up.

SUE
One minute.

She shuts the door on him.

20 **INT. JADE’S BEDROOM - NIGHT** 20

Sue pushes the bedroom door open. Mia and Jade sit on the bed. Mia paints Jade’s nails.

SUE
Why is there a boy at the door?

JADE
It’s just Daniel. Let him in.

SUE
You better not be having a party, Jade. I swear to god.

JADE
I’m not, mum. It’s two friends. Can you let him in please?

Sue grits her teeth and exits.

21 **EXT. JADE’S FRONT DOORSTEP - NIGHT** 21

Daniel stands on the doorstep, looking around, lit from above by the porch light. The door opens. Sue eyeballs him.

SUE
What time is everyone getting here?

DANIEL
Getting here for what?

SUE
The party.

DANIEL
Is there a party tonight?

SUE
I don’t know, Daniel. Is there?

DANIEL
Not ... I don’t think so?

SUE
Have you got alcohol in your car?

DANIEL
I don’t drink.

Sue smiles and stares at Daniel, unconvinced.

SUE
You’re good.

He looks genuinely confused. Sue steps aside. He enters.

Sue looks around for more kids before shutting the door.

22 **INT. RILEY’S BEDROOM - NIGHT** 22

The room is cluttered and messy. Riley and James are on the bed with Cookie using their phones.

Sue opens the door. The framing is identical to the Jade interrogation.

SUE
What time is the party?

RILEY
What party?

SUE
Jade’s told me, honey. What time?

RILEY
Mum, I honestly don’t know ...

SUE
You are not drinking tonight. I will not have a second Jade.

RILEY
There’s no party, Mum!

SUE
James.

JAMES
If there’s a party, then I’m definitely drinking at it.

23 **INT. JADE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT** 23

Sue opens the door. Jade and Mia are still on the bed, still doing their nails. Daniel sits on the floor.

JADE
Jesus, mum. Knock much?

SUE
Mia, if there is a party tonight then you are banned from this house effective immediately.

Sue turns to leave, but maintains eye contact with Mia to gauge her reaction.

MIA
Ummm okay?

SUE
Okay. So you're just here third-wheeling for tonight?

MIA
Well, it's really humiliating when you put it that way.

Sue points to Daniel.

SUE
You. My daughter's vagina? Prohibited.

JADE
Oh my god, Mum! Leave before I kill everyone in the room.

Sue looks at each kid, searching their faces for a tell.

24 **EXT. JADE'S HOUSE - NIGHT** 24

Sue's car backs out of the driveway and takes off down the street.

25 **INT. JADE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT** 25

Jade, Mia and Riley watch through the blinds. Jade has her phone to her ear.

MIA
Your mum is like ... Spiderwoman. She just senses shit.

RILEY
But this isn't a party, is it?

MIA
Sort of is.

RILEY
So, I lied?

JADE
Yes.
(into phone)
Yeah, come. She just left.

26 **INT. JADE'S LIVING ROOM - LATER** 26

Everyone, including Joss and Hayley, stand around a dining chair. Hayley inspects a bottle of Midori.

HAYLEY
It's half empty.

JADE
It's fine. It's Mum's.

HAYLEY
Ew. I don't want your family's AIDS. Sharing a bottle. Ew.

MIA
Build a bridge, Hayley.

Joss produces the bundle and unwraps it.

MIA (CONT'D)
(re: the hand)
Where'd you get it from anyway?

JOSS
A guy named Duckett.

Mia lights a candle on the coffee table.

JAMES
This is such bullshit.

MIA
I can't wait to see your face.

JAMES
Watch nothing happen.

MIA
Riley, get the lights.

Daniel hands his phone to Jade.

DANIEL
Film me?

Jade hesitates, but takes his phone. Riley switches the lights off.

Daniel sits upside down on the chair. Mia ties him.

HAYLEY
Timer? Someone?

JOSS
Got it.

Hayley places the hand in front of Daniel. He grabs it.

HAYLEY
Alright. Say it.

DANIEL
Talk to me ...

His jaw drops. His expression changes to wonderment. He sees someone we don't.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Oh, what?! Oh, wow.

HAYLEY
Come on.

DANIEL
Come in.

His pupils widen.

Joss pulls the chair upright.

Daniel begins to pant like a dog.

JAMES
(laughing)
What?

Daniel giggles a high pitched laugh, increasing in pitch and hysteria.

The chair tips on it's left legs, right legs suspended in air.

JAMES (CONT'D)
How the hell?!

The chair tips to the other side with a BANG.

DANIEL
**Squidly. Squidly. Squidllllyyy.**

Everyone laughs.

The chair tips over and falls on its side with a CRASH.

Daniel convulses and shrieks a feminine shriek, before giggling again.

He rubs against the carpet erotically.

Cookie runs over, licking his face.

Daniel turns to face the dog and kisses it, sticking his tongue down the dog's throat.

It's deep, passionate and filthy.

HAYLEY
Oh my god!

Everyone's reaction is a mixture of complete disgust and tears of laughter.

Jade lowers the phone, embarrassed.

HAYLEY (CONT'D)
Ninety seconds.

Mia blows out the candle.

Joss rips the hand from Daniel.

Daniel snaps out of it.

Everyone is LAUGHING in hysterics, except Jade and Daniel.

JADE
Hey. You okay?

DANIEL
(avoiding eye contact)
Untie me.

He spits out salvia and fur.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
(urgent)
Untie me. Come on!

Jade pulls the ropes off. Daniel is on his feet like lightning, his face flushed red.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Delete it. Everyone delete it.

HAYLEY
Yeah. Nah.

Nobody else responds. It's clear nobody is going to delete it.

Daniel is speechless. He storms out, slamming the door.

Joss holds the hand out.

JOSS
Jade?

JADE
Not interested.

MIA
I'll go.

JADE
After *that*?

MIA
Get your thot dog out. And no cameras.

MONTAGE

The teenagers party with the hand.

- Jade pushes the dog out and shuts the door.

- Mia is possessed, hair floating, eyes milky white. She sings Madame Butterfly like Maria Callas. Everyone applauds. Mia is wide-eyed and grinning, the spirit loves the attention.

- Hayley grips the hand. The timer starts. Hayley's chair rotates 360, over and over. Hayley squeals. Jade blows out the candle.

- Joss grips the hand. He sobs dramatically. He snarls, but stops himself quickly, like a tic.

JOSS
**I had sinned. Forgiveeeee meeeeeeee.**

HAYLEY
Cry us a river, ya sook.

- Daniel returns to the room. Jade gives him a comforting squeeze on the shoulder.

- Mia chants Latin at impossible speeds. She angles her head at the couch, forcing it back with psychokinesis.

MIA
**She deserved it. SO DO YOU!**

Everyone antagonizes the spirit, slapping its face, throwing water at it. Mia hisses and spits. Riley blows the candle out.

END MONTAGE

Jade and Daniel sit close on the couch. Mia sits on an armrest. Joss drinks a beer. Riley drinks a sports drink.

JAMES
Alright, I need a shot at this.

RILEY
Me too.

JADE
Youse wish.

JAMES
You're not my mum, Jade. You're not even 18.

JADE
Yeah, but you're not even 13 so ...

JAMES
So what?

RILEY
Jade, please.

JADE
Riley, I said no.

Riley looks sad. Mia sees James give Riley a dirty look.

MIA
What if we did it for like 60 seconds?

JADE
Mia, stop.

MIA
60 seconds, Jade. You don't have to be a bitch about all things Riley.

Riley is getting worked up.

RILEY
You just don't want me to be a part of the things you do.

Jade is genuinely surprised.

JADE
What?

RILEY
You're so busy trying to suck Daniel's dick you don't want anything to do with me or Mia anymore.

JOSS
Whoah!

HAYLEY
Family drama.

Daniel blushes.

JADE
Why do you want to do it? To show off to James? To come into my room CRYING that you're scared like last time?

James looks at Riley, loving the gossip.

JADE (CONT'D)
Did you tell your lil friend that?

RILEY
(embarrassed)
I hate you.

JADE
(sarcastic)
Like you're my favorite person in the world.

A beat of awkward silence.

Jade leaves the room. Daniel heads after her, but Mia stops him.

MIA
I think ... give her a moment.

Daniel nods.

RILEY
60 seconds?

MIA
50.

RILEY
Ok, I'll do 50!

MIA
Let's get it over with.

Riley sits upside down. Joss ties him.

JAMES
I got the timer.

Riley interlocks fingers with the hand.

RILEY
Talk to me.

We don't see the apparition, but Riley clearly recognizes the person standing opposite him.

RILEY (CONT'D)
Oh my god.

MIA
It's okay, Riley. Say it. Riley, come in.

RILEY
Come in.

Riley blinks.

His pupils widen.

Joss pulls him upright.

Riley stares forward. He looks sad.

RILEY (CONT'D)
***I'm sorry. I didn't want to hurt you.***

Riley's face looks gentle, his voice changing.

RILEY (CONT'D)
(warm)
***I'd never want to hurt you. I miss you so, so, so much. My baby Mi-Mi.***

Mia covers her mouth.

Riley turns to her.

RILEY (CONT'D)
***I don't want you to hate me.***

MIA
Mum? Mum, is that you?

The chair levitates in the air.

JAMES
***It wasn't your fault baby.***

MIA
(overwhelmed)
Oh my god.

Riley's head tilts, his neck lifts, miming a hanging.

JAMES
Fifty seconds.

MIA
Don’t close it off. Please.

RILEY
***Mi-Mi.***

JAMES
Mia ...

MIA
It’s my mum, James. Shut up. Please.

RILEY
***I needed you to know.***

MIA
You didn’t ... you didn’t even leave a note.

Riley talks to the ceiling.

RILEY
***Your father ...***

MIA
He misses you mum.

RILEY
***I love you both, baby.***

Mia reaches out and touches his hand, holds it to her face.

MIA
I love you too, Mum.

RILEY
**And I got. Got. Got. Got. Got.**

Mia looks up.

Riley’s expression has changed into a leer.

RILEY (CONT’D)
**Gotcha.**

The voice is gruff.

The chair falls back to the ground, breaking with a CRASH. Everyone backs away, except Mia.

Riley’s head rips sideways to stare at Daniel.

RILEY (CONT’D)
**Faggot. Where’s my faggot?!**

ON THE PHONE: 100 seconds.

RILEY (CONT'D)
**FUCKING FAGGOT. FAGGOT. FAGGOT. FAGGOT. SLUT. SLUT. SLUT.**

Riley groans erotically, rubbing against the broken chair.

It splinters.

RILEY (CONT'D)
**SPLIT ME! SPLIT ME! SLUT!**

MIA
Joss, help!

Joss is frozen.

Riley squeals.

Jade bursts into the room.

JADE
What happened??!!

Mia pulls at the hand. Joss rushes over to help.

The coffee table levitates in front of Riley as he convulses.

Lights flicker. Cookie barks.

RILEY
**THANK YOU, PRETTY BOY!**

Riley's body loses control.

His head flies down onto the floating coffee table with a vicious CRACK!

MIA
FUCKING HELP ME!

Riley repeatedly smashes his face, breaking his nose and teeth. The table's glass SHATTERS.

He grabs Mia's hair, throwing her into the wall.

Joss runs to Riley to rip the hand from him.

Riley's head cracks to the side.

Windows smash. Lights go out.

Riley stares at Mia.

RILEY
**I'LL GET YA. I'M GONNA GET YA. I'M GONNA GET YA, SLUT!!**

Riley throws his head to the side again. ***SNAP.***

The chair and table drop, CRASHING.

Riley's limp body, tumbles. The hand falls from his grip.

Mia pulls away.

Riley stares dead-eyed at Mia.

JADE
Riley.

He doesn't respond. Mia scrambles over.

MIA
Riley?

Riley's face is still. Lifeless.

JADE
Riley!

James backs away.

JADE (CONT'D)
Riley, say something.

MIA
Please. Say something.

JADE
He's not breathing. Someone!

CLOSE on Mia. She can't be in the room anymore.

JADE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(barely audible)
Call an ambulance!

Daniel runs out of the room, a phone to his ear.

Mia walks out, wandering aimlessly through the house, shell-shocked.

DANIEL (O.S.)
(on the phone)
I don't know. He's not moving ...
how do I do that?

Mia holds herself looking through the glass door to the yard.

Someone is standing behind it, staring back at Mia. Concealed by glass and shadow.

Behind Mia, Joss and Hayley panic.

JOSS
What do we say?

HAYLEY
The truth?

JOSS
We'll go to prison, Hayley. We let him do it. It's our fault. We can't say anything.

The shadowed figure retreats into darkness.

27 **INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - NIGHT** 27

Twin doors burst in. Paramedics push Riley on a gurney.

His eyes are wide and he trembles uncontrollably.

DOCTOR WILKINSON, 50, shines a light in his eyes.

DOCTOR WILKINSON
Riley? Riley, can you hear me? Riley?

28 **INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT** 28

MONTAGE.

- Everyone gives their statements one by one; Joss, Hayley, Daniel, Mia and James. Some of their parents are present. Others are not.

We don't hear what is said, but everyone wears the same devastated expression.

29 **INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - LATER** 29

Jade sits in the hospital corridor.

Daniel holds her hand.

A familiar face enters.

JADE
MUM!

Jade runs into Sue's arms.

She needs this, but it doesn't last long.

SUE
Where is she?

Jade points to the doors up the corridor.

JADE
We can't go in.

Sue turns and enters the room.

There is a moment before Sue's cry carries out from the room.

Jade can't bear to listen. She walks away, Daniel follows.

She stops at the glass door leading to the waiting room.

Mia's in there, sitting alone.

JADE (CONT'D)
What did she say?

DANIEL
That she'll stay all night if she has to.

JADE
I don't want her here.

DANIEL
Maybe you should tell her that?

Mia notices Jade. She jumps out of her seat and powers over to the glass door.

MIA
Tell me he's okay.

Mia pushes the glass door open.

Jade turns away, not wanting to have the confrontation.

MIA (CONT'D)
Have the police talked to you yet?

Jade shakes her head 'no'.

MIA (CONT'D)
You know the story, yeah?

JADE
You should go.

MIA
Wait, Jade. How is he?

Jade lowers her head and is as gentle as she can be under the circumstances.

JADE
No offense, but I don't want you here right now.

MIA
Just tell me how he is?

JADE
They can't close his eyes, Mia. He won't even blink.

Sue exits the hospital room and spots the girls. She can't believe Mia's showed her face. She charges over to them.

SUE
What are you doing here?

MIA
I wanted to see how he was.

SUE
He's bad, Mia. Really fucking bad. Did you give it to him?

MIA
What?

SUE
The drug, Mia. Jade's told me you've done shit before. What was it?

MIA
It wasn't mine.

SUE
Bullshit. I know Jade wouldn't touch that shit, but you would. I can't believe you. What did my son do to you?

MIA
Nothing.

SUE
Why did you hurt him? When your mum passed, who was there? Every night by your side, who was there?

This is emotionally devastating for both of them.

MIA
I didn't hurt him. I love him. And you. And Jade. You're my family.

SUE
After everything we've done ...

JADE
Mum ...

SUE
Go home. Now.

MIA
I just want to see him.

SUE
You come back here again and I'll call the police.

Sue walks back towards Riley's room.

Mia turns to Jade with desperate eyes.

MIA
Jade.

Jade doesn't respond. She avoids eye contact.

MIA (CONT'D)
Jade. I'm sorry.

JADE
Just go home.

Jade avoids eye contact, pulling Daniel away, leaving Mia alone and devastated.

30 **INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - NIGHT** 30

A red tiled floor and long laminated tables. A couple sit eating. Music plays on the radio.

Mia approaches the counter. There's nobody there.

She rings the bell.

A beefy Islander, CHEF, 20s, appears from the kitchen. His body is big, but his face is kind.

MIA
I need a coffee. Like a thirty shot.

CHEF
You'd be checking in if I gave you that. Let's settle for a double.

MIA
Two sugars.

CHEF
Two sugars. You sure you want a double shot? You look like you need sleep.

MIA
My ... brother's in here. I want to be awake when he ... comes to.

CHEF
I'll bring it out to you.

Mia takes a seat in a booth. The couple sit opposite from her. They laugh and bicker.

Mia orders an Uber.

Mia's phone buzzes - her dad. She ignores him.

Sitting alone, her mind races, replaying the night.

She's lost in thought, until she notices THE STRANGE MAN in worn, ragged clothes seated at a far table - *how did she miss him?* His face is droopy, his ears long. He has bags under his eyes and his lips are thick and rubbery.

He looks like a mockery of an old person, like a Halloween mask.

He looks directly at Mia, smiling.

Mia drops her eyes. She tears open a packet of sugar, pouring it on the table. She can't help but look back up.

He's still smiling.

Mia looks back down.

The couple stand, gather their things and leave.

Things suddenly feel decidedly unsafe.

Mia looks to the counter. Chef's back is to her, busy in the kitchen.

She looks back.

The Strange Man is gone.

She relaxes and makes patterns in the sugar on the table.

THE STRANGE MAN (O.S.)
*They'll hurt him.*

He is standing RIGHT NEXT TO HER.

Mia is taken by surprise.

She tries to act normal, but her voice betrays her.

MIA
Pardon?

THE STRANGE MAN
*You shouldn't have listened.*

MIA
My dad is gonna be back in a second.

He sits down opposite her. He won't take his eyes off her - his huge watering eyes.

THE STRANGE MAN
*I need you to see.*

MIA
See what?

Blood runs out of his nose.

THE STRANGE MAN
*What they'll do to him.*

Mia stands to leave. He puts his foot up next to her, blocking her exit.

MIA
I've gotta go.

The Strange Man's face darkens.

THE STRANGE MAN
*Where?*

MIA
To the bathroom.

THE STRANGE MAN
Why are you doing that?

MIA
Doing what?

THE STRANGE MAN
*Lying.*

He rubs his hand over the sugar on the table.

MIA
I've really gotta go to the bathroom.

She pushes past his leg and scurries across the cafeteria to the toilets.

31 **INT. HOSPITAL TOILETS - NIGHT** 31

Mia powers over to the last stall, enters and locks the door.

She flips out her phone, calling her dad.

She raises the phone to her ear, petrified. It rings out. A recording plays.

PHONE
'The person you are calling is unavailable right now. Please try again later.'

Mia calls again.

The fluorescent lights overhead flicker and blink.

Mia looks to the ceiling as her call rings out.

PHONE (CONT'D)
'The person you are calling is unavailable right now. Please...'

The door to the toilets opens with a creak and then swings shut with a BANG.

Mia shoves backs into the wall by the toilet.

Mia hears footsteps approach.

She holds her breath in fear.

A stall door is pushed open. Creak. BANG! Mia closes her eyes.

Another stall door. Creak. BANG!

A shadow falls at Mia's feet - he's right outside the cubicle.

The shadow starts to gasp. Sobbing at the door.

All the lights go out.

It's pitch black.

Mia's hand flies to her mouth to stop her from screaming.

BEEP! Her phone chimes - a message from Dad.

The phone temporarily lights up the cubicle, spilling light around Mia, casting her shadow on the ceiling.

The light reveals a figure standing right behind her.

Mia hears breathing. It's coming from behind.

Mia turns to face the darkness.

We can hear a woman choking.

Mia twists the lock and pushes the door open.

She stumbles back, peering into the darkness.

The choking continues - it sounds almost familiar.

She turns to leave and ...

THE STRANGE MAN STEPS INTO FRAME AND GRABS HER BY THE NECK!

Mia SCREAMS.

He's on her.

She tries to fight him off, but he's older, bigger, stronger.

He pulls at her violently, his red-rimmed eyes BULGING out of his head.

MIA
HELP! HELP ME!!

She bites, scratches pulls, with everything she's got.

As he struggles with her, his features look huge, oversized.

She hits him in the head with her phone and breaks away, racing for the exit.

32 **INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - NIGHT** 32

She throws the door open and CRASHES straight into Chef.

MIA
Help me. Shit! Please.

CHEF
Hey, hey, hey. What's wrong? What's wrong?

MIA
(frantic)
He tried to grab me.

CHEF
Who? Who touched you?

Mia turns to the bathroom.

MIA
He's in there.

The chef looks to the bathroom with fierce eyes.

CHEF
Wait here.

He pulls her to one side. Clenching his fists, he enters the bathroom.

33 **INT. HOSPITAL TOILETS - NIGHT** 33

The door bursts in, SLAMMING against the wall.

Chef is framed by the doorway.

CHEF
Oi. Mutherfucker. Come out!

Every stall door hangs open, but one. Chef walks over to it.

CHEF (CONT'D)
I know you're in here.

He reaches for the door.

34 **INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - NIGHT** 34

Mia hears movement from inside the bathroom.

Chef reemerges, confused.

CHEF
There's no one in there.

JADE
I saw him.

CHEF
The bathroom's empty.

Chef eyes Mia suspiciously.

Mia spots an exhausted Daniel walking towards the exit.

MIA
I have to go.

35 **INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - NIGHT** 35

Mia trails behind Daniel before racing to catch up.

MIA
Daniel.

DANIEL
Why are you still here, Mia?

MIA
I caught a taxi here and ... I just don't want to go home.

DANIEL
Give Jade some space.

MIA
She hates me, doesn't she?

Daniel doesn't respond.

MIA (CONT'D)
How's Riley?

DANIEL
It's really bad, Mia.

MIA
Can you drop me home?

36 **INT. DANIEL'S CAR - NIGHT** 36

Spots of rain appear on the windshield.

Wipers squeak them away leaving green and red streaks reflected from the traffic lights.

Mia's eyes are glued to the rear view mirror.

DANIEL
What'd your dad say?

MIA
Nothing. When we got home from the station, I left. What about your parents?

DANIEL
I'm 18 so they didn't call mine. They can't know.

MIA
Where do they think you are?

DANIEL
Friends. I can't go home. They're gonna know something's up.

MIA
What are you gonna do?

DANIEL
I dunno. Drive around or something.

MIA
You can stay at mine?

DANIEL
Uh ...

Mia takes the hesitation as a no.

MIA
It’s cool. Don’t worry about it.

DANIEL
No, I just ...

MIA
It’s fine. But ... you used to come over all the time and that was okay.

DANIEL
That was different.

MIA
Why?

DANIEL
We were kids.

MIA
So what are we now?

DANIEL
I dunno.

MIA
We’re friends, Daniel. You being with Jade doesn’t have to change that.

He doesn’t reply.

MIA (CONT’D)
And I’d really rather not be alone right now.

They drive.

It’s silent except for the rain on the roof and the squeaking windshield wipers.

DANIEL
I’ll come, okay? Just maybe don’t say anything to Jade. I don’t want her thinking anything.

Mia pulls her eyes from the rear view mirror, convinced there’s nothing there. She looks out the window.

MIA
Thank you.

The Strange Man stands on the side of the road, soaking wet.

He stares at Mia.

Mia's view shifts as they pass and he's lost in the rain on the windows.

Mia turns away and stares ahead.

The shadows of the rain on her face hide her tears.

37 **INT. SUE'S CAR - NIGHT** 37

Sue drives. Jade is in the passenger seat. Wipers squeak.

Sue is smoking, which she rarely does.

And she's smoking in the car, which she never does.

They pass an ambulance, sirens blaring, lights swirling.

The car is filled with blue and red.

SUE
What happened?

No response from Jade. She just looks tense.

Sue winds down the window, a blast of cold winter air and rain.

She flicks the cigarette out and winds it up.

SUE (CONT'D)
Jade, I need you to be honest with me. What did they do to him? What did they do to your brother.

Jade grips her hands together as she looks out to the rainy night.

SUE (CONT'D)
Jade ...

JADE
I wasn't in the room.

SUE
His nose is broken. His teeth are gone, Jade. Jesus Christ, they broke his neck. Your brother. Tell me what they did?!

Sue hits the window.

SUE (CONT'D)
Did you help them?

JADE
Mum, no.

SUE
What drug was it?

JADE
I don't know.

SUE
Jade, tell me something!

JADE
I ...

She begins to sob.

JADE (CONT'D)
I don't know anything!

SUE
Someone needs to explain why the doctors need to pull splinters out of my twelve year old son's penis. Someone needs to tell me something!

Jade reaches out to grab her Sue's hand. She pulls away.

38 **EXT. MIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT** 38

It's really coming down now.

Daniel runs from the car to the house.

Mia is looking over her shoulder as she pulls her keys out and opens the door.

39 **INT. MIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT** 39

Daniel enters and Mia closes the door behind him.

DANIEL
Wow, I haven't been here in like three years.

MIA
Your parents used to be here all time.

DANIEL
Before you guys stopped coming to church.

MIA
After my mum died, yeah.

DANIEL
Why'd you stop?

MIA
It was more her thing than mine.

He spots some handwriting on Mia's bed frame:

*DANIEL'S <3 4 MIA*

He sits on the floor and runs his finger along it.

DANIEL
Wow, I was a loser.

MIA
That was your way of flirting.

DANIEL
Do thirteen year olds flirt?

MIA
Thirteen year olds root these days.

Mia sits beside him.

MIA (CONT'D)
Remember when we held hands?

DANIEL
Yeah.

MIA
Right here.

DANIEL
I remember.

MIA
I could feel your heart beating through your fingers.

DANIEL
It was ages ago.

MIA
Did it mean anything?

DANIEL
At the time, I guess.

MIA
I really liked you. But I thought you were gay.

DANIEL
Well, I wasn't. I'm not.

MIA
How come you haven't kissed Jade yet?

DANIEL
You know me. Too scared to make a move.

Mia looks at the carvings, reminiscent.

MIA
Are my hands still bigger than yours? I remember you had the tiniest hands.

Daniel looks at his hands and shrugs.

MIA (CONT'D)
Here.

Mia grabs his hand and places them against hers.

MIA (CONT'D)
I'm still bigger than you.

DANIEL
Yeah. I'm still hitting puberty.

They hold hands for a second, Mia lost in a moment that means everything to her. But Daniel looks awkward.

Mia presses her index finger against his. Daniel pulls away.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
I'm so tired. I might crash on your couch.

MIA
Daniel, you can sleep on the bed. It's fine.

Daniel is hesitant.

MIA (CONT'D)
Stop making everything weird. It's fine.

DANIEL
We're sleeping head to toe, then.

MIA
You're such a loser.

40 **INT. MIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT** 40

A nightlight casts soft blue cartoons of planets, stars and moons all over the room.

Daniel and Mia lay head to toe in bed.

Daniel is asleep, eyes closed, breathing deeply, Mia's feet by his face.

Mia breathes heavily, almost asleep, eyelids drooping. She watches the old Piddypops cartoon on her phone, earbuds in.

She stops the video and scrolls through her phone.

ON HER PHONE

- photos of Jade, Riley and Mia in happier times.

- a video of them with their arms around each other, grinning and laughing.

- a video of Jade, Riley and Mia at a dining table, empty plates. It's differently furnished, but clearly Mia's house.

MIA
(in the video)
What's taking so long?

They get up and go and see. The shot moves to the kitchen - it looks different to the renovated kitchen of today.

Mia's frazzled mother, Rhea, is struggling with the oven.

MIA (CONT'D)
Mum? Are you okay?

RHEA
If your father bought me the new oven he promised it'd be done by now.

JADE
I don't mind. I can just have bread.

BACK IN THE ROOM

Mia looks sad, her face lit by the screen.

She scrolls back through her phone and we hear the return of Piddypops.

It cheers her a little.

She lowers the phone ... and GASPS.

An old HUNGRY WOMAN, tiny face surrounded by rolls of flesh and thinning hair, STARES AT MIA.

Mia SCREAMS.

The Hungry Woman pisses on the floor.

Mia turns away to run and sees the Strange Man laying next to her.

Mia falls out of the bed and scrambles to her feet.

The Hungry Woman grabs Daniel's foot and sticks it in her mouth. Swallowing it down to the ankle. She begins to suck.

MIA
Daniel! Daniel, wake up!

The Hungry Woman rubs his leg and bites down on his toes.

The Strange Man begins to wail.

The woman bites so hard she pulls the skin off the bone.

MIA (CONT'D)
STOP!

Daniel jolts awake.

He finds MIA sucking on his feet, eyes wide and wet.

There's nobody else in the room.

DANIEL
Mia. What the ...?

He pulls away, but she clings greedily to his foot.

He pushes her off with his other foot.

She scrambles after him making a rasping noise at the back of her throat, like a cat hocking up fur.

Daniel pushes her hard and she falls off the bed. She SCREAMS and spins, looking for the ghosts.

She runs to Daniel and tries to hold him, but he pushes her away.

MIA
Where are they? Where are they?! Oh my god, they were sucking you. Oh my god!

Daniel looks at Mia like she's crazy.

MIA (CONT'D)
They followed us. Jesus, Daniel, whatever we contacted with the hand followed us!

DANIEL
What are you talking about?

MIA
They were sucking your feet!

He quickly puts his shoes on.

DANIEL
*You* were sucking my feet.

MIA
What?

DANIEL
*You* were sucking my feet, Mia. You had my foot in your mouth.

Mia is confused.

MIA
No, I wasn't.

DANIEL
Yes, you were.

MIA
Are you insane? I was in bed!

DANIEL
Mia, I'm gonna go.

Daniel puts on his jacket.

MIA
Please, Daniel ...

She moves to Daniel, tugging at his jacket. He leans back, away from her.

DANIEL
Mia. Stop! I'm going.

Mia is heartbroken as Daniel heads out the door.

41 **INT. HOSPITAL BATHROOM - DAY** 41

Sue pulls the plug from the tub. The water drains around Riley. Jade is in the doorway.

JADE
Aren't the nurses meant to do that?

SUE
He's my son. Not theirs.

JADE
Can I help?

SUE
You don't need to, Jade.

JADE
I want to.

SUE
You think your brother wants you to see him in the bath?

JADE
You think he wants *you* to see him in the bath?

Sue smiles and shakes her head.

SUE
I'm drying him.

Sue holds out a towel for Jade. She grabs it and together they starts pat down Riley.

SUE (CONT'D)
Help lift him.

Sue tucks her arms under Riley. Together they lift him onto the side of the tub.

Sue's phone rings. She eyes the caller and scoffs.

SUE (CONT'D)
Your father. Unbelievable. Brush his hair.

Sue takes the call and leaves the room.

JADE
Riley. Say something? Please just say anything.

No response.

Jade begins to brush his hair.

Riley lets out a slight groan.

Jade stops.

Riley is quiet.

Jade brushes again.

Riley groans.

JADE (CONT'D)
Riley.

Riley rubs his face against her hand.

He traces his lips against her fingers. Jade doesn't understand what's happening.

He opens his mouth and SNAPS, biting Jade's fingers.

Jade SQUEALS and tries to pull away, but her brother's jaws are like a vice.

There's blood running down his chin now. Jade screams.

JADE (CONT'D)
MUM!

Jade grabs at Riley's mouth with her free hand, and then pulls his hair back.

He groans.

Jade pulls him forward off the tub, splashing water.

He collapses to the floor, hyperventilating.

Smiling, he licks the bath water and blood off the floor.

JADE (CONT'D)
MUM!

RILEY
**F ... f ... f ... Feed me. Feed me.**
**FEED ME.**

Riley throws his head back against the shower door.

RILEY (CONT'D)
**FEED ME!**

He smashes his head again and again.

JADE
RILEY! STOP!

Jade kneels down and tries to stop him, but he's too strong.

He smashes his head again.

The glass cracks.

He hits again.

The glass SHATTERS.

SUE (O.S.)
RILEY!

Sue enters, running between her children.

SUE (CONT'D)
Stop. Stop. Stop.

Riley stops convulsing.

He returns to his inert state.

SUE (CONT'D)
NURSE!

The nurses are inside the room within seconds.

Jade watches the nurses crowd around Riley.

She's horrified.

42 **INT. MIA'S CAR - DAY** 42

Mia drives through an empty car park, through puddles and past shopping trolleys.

She turns to see Daniel and Jade standing between two cars. She pulls up behind.

Mia checks herself in the mirror and takes a breath.

43 **EXT. CAR PARK - DAY** 43

Mia approaches the group under a gloomy sky.

Mia and Daniel exchange an awkward look.

Another car pulls up, Joss and Hayley get out.

HAYLEY
Guys, we've got like three minutes to talk. Our dad sees us gone, he'll cut our nuts off.

MIA
Youse grounded?

JOSS
I'm 19 and I'm grounded. Like da fuck is that? Who showed the police the video?

Daniel raises his hand.

JOSS (CONT'D)
Bro ...

DANIEL
Had to. Like they would've thought we done it.

HAYLEY
Instead they think we drugged him. Did everyone stick to the story?

DANIEL
Obviously.

HAYLEY
Well, it feels like someone said something different.

Mia looks to Jade.

MIA
How is he?

JADE
Sedated. Twelve stitches in his head.

HAYLEY
New stitches? What happened?

Jade bristles, doesn't look at Mia.

JADE
Shattered a shower stall with his head.

HAYLEY
What?

JADE
It's in him. That thing is still in him. He spoke exactly like it.

Daniel puts his arm around Jade. Jealous, blood pounds in Mia's ears.

HAYLEY
You think he's still possessed?

JADE
I know he is.

DANIEL
Has it ever lasted this long?

JOSS
No man, never.

Mia looks around the car park. A seagull walks toward them. It stops to peck at spilled fries.

MIA
Where did you get the hand?

JOSS
This guy Duckett. I met him like twice. Went to a couple of parties, did the hand thing.
(MORE)

JOSS (CONT'D)
I rang him to borrow it once and he told me I could keep it.

MIA
Why?

JOSS
He said he didn’t need it anymore and that he was seeing them without it.

MIA
Them?

HAYLEY
The people. But he’s crazy or something. We’ve done it like 20 times and no one’s kept seeing them.

MIA
I have.

Everyone looks to Mia.

MIA (CONT’D)
The ones I spoke to are here sometimes. One of them grabbed me at the hospital. Another one attacked Daniel at my house.

They all look at Daniel.

HAYLEY
(to Daniel)
You saw it?

DANIEL
Not exactly.

JOSS
What does that mean?

DANIEL
I woke up and Mia was ... I dunno like in a trance or something and she ... Mia was ...

He looks at Mia, half apologetic.

DANIEL (CONT’D)
... sucking my feet.

Jade stares at Daniel.

Hayley and Joss look at Mia.

JADE
What do you mean, “woke up with Mia”?

MIA
It wasn’t me. I swear to God.

Jade shoots Daniel an accusing glare.

DANIEL
(under his breath)
She was scared and didn’t want to be alone.

Jade lifts Daniel’s arm off her.

MIA
Can we speak to Duckett?

JOSS
No. He killed himself.

The kids exchange shocked looks.

HAYLEY
What about his brother? He might know something.

MIA
Can we call him?

44 **EXT. ROAD BY TRAIN STATION - DUSK** 44

It’s almost dark. Daniel’s car pulls to the side of the road. The others pull up behind.

45 **EXT. TRAIN PLATFORM - NIGHT** 45

It’s dark and eerie. The single light doesn’t provide much visibility.

The group look up as a train approaches, lighting the night.

It pulls in to the opposite platform. Passengers exit and head for the crossing. The train departs. A tanned, hairy guy, COLE, 25, spots the group.

Cole jumps down and runs across the tracks, climbing up the elevated platform to everyone.

JOSS
Hey bro.

COLE
I haven’t got long. Connecting train’s almost here.

JOSS
Okay, man. This is Mia. She’s been ... seeing shit. Still. Same as Duckett.

Cole looks Mia up and down.

COLE
How much are you seeing them?

Mia voice shakes.

MIA
They’re everywhere. Did he talk about the “people” he was seeing?

COLE
Yeah, he said there were a lot of different ones - “more of them than fish in the ocean”. He reckoned specific types of THEM were drawn to specific types of US. Something to do with energies.

MIA
Energies?

COLE
Right; your emotions, your mental state, your soul.

Mia is taking all this in.

MIA
What do you think they wanted? The “people”?

COLE
Let me put it this way; if you're seeing them, they're using you.

MIA
For what?

COLE
I dunno. It depends. Don’t trust them.

In the distance, a train light glows heading for the other platform.

COLE (CONT’D)
That’s me. Gotta go.

JADE
Wait! My brother. He did it. He’s in the hospital. It’s still in him!

COLE
How long did he do it for?

JADE
Two, three minutes.

COLE
That's not good. The longer you do it for. The longer they stick around.

JADE
It's been days now. He's getting worse.

COLE
Did anyone blow the candle out? Maybe you didn't shut it off properly?

Everyone looks around.

MIA
Did he?

JOSS
I don't remember.

COLE
Well, I don't know. I can't help you. I'm sorry.

Cole jumps down and runs across to the other platform. The train honks. He climbs up as the train pulls in.

MIA
Did he blow it out?

Jade is shaking her head, growing angry.

JADE
You shouldn't have let him do it, Mia. I can't believe you.

MIA
We all decided it'd be okay?

HAYLEY
We didn't decide anything.

MIA
We did. We all said ...

HAYLEY
We didn't say anything, Mia. It was sort of just you.

Mia fumes.

JADE
I said don't let him touch it and what do you do? Take his side, kiss arse and gang up on me. That's fucked, Mia.

MIA
Alright, Jade!

Jade stops, suprised by Mia acting Alpha.

MIA (CONT'D)
If Riley didn't blow the candle out that explains a lot.

DANIEL
We opened the door and never shut it.

MIA
Right?

Joss nods.

MIA (CONT'D)
So, we do it again with Riley and, this time, blow the candle out.

Jade is incredulous.

JADE
You want my brother to do it AGAIN? The thing that put him in hospital.

MIA
You wanna save him?

Jade turns on Mia.

JADE
Don't fucking ask me that.

DANIEL
(to Joss)
Think it'll work?

Joss shrugs. Nobody has an answer as the train roars away.

46 **EXT. ROAD BY TRAIN STATION - NIGHT** 46

The car park is now almost pitch black.

Hayley pulls the hand from her car.

Even though it's wrapped in the t-shirt, everyone still steps back.

HAYLEY
I don't think we can come.

JOSS
Dad's been calling.

Mia takes the hand.

MIA
I'll bring it back.

JOSS
Don't. You can have it.

Hayley and Joss get into their car.

JOSS (CONT'D)
Good luck, yeah?

Mia nods. Joss pulls away.

47 **INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY** 47

Mia, Daniel and Jade approach Riley's room.

JADE
Mum's back in like an hour so let's just be quick.

Jade pushes the door open.

48 **INT. RILEY'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY** 48

Our trio step inside.

It's the first time Mia has seen Riley since the accident. She freezes. It's a horrific sight, painful to see.

MIA
Oh my god.

Riley's bruised eyes are open. His body still trembles and twitches.

DANIEL
I thought he was sedated?

JADE
He was.

Riley's arms are tied to the bed. Pillows cushion the back of his head.

Mia pulls the shirt off the hand. Daniel steps back.

She offers it to Jade.

JADE (CONT'D)
Just do it, Mia.

Mia places the hand on the floor.

MIA
Help me?

Together they undo the straps holding Riley down. They gently lower him over the side of the bed.

He's upside down.

Mia lights a candle. She gets lost in Riley's eyes for a second. Emotion swells.

JADE
Mia.

Mia snaps out of it. She picks up Riley's bruised hand. Riley pulls away and groans.

MIA
Riley. Please.

Mia goes to lift Riley's hand again, but he struggles away.

With effort, Mia interlocks Riley's fingers with the hand.

MIA (CONT'D)
Talk to him. Talk to him.

Daniel blows out the candle. Mia lets go of Riley's hand.

DANIEL
Anything?

Mia looks to Riley, no difference.

He's in the same state.

Mia lifts Riley's hand again. He groans louder.

She forces his hand back on the ceramic hand.

MIA
You have to leave. It's time for you to leave. Get out. Talk to him. Talk to me. Let him out. Talk to him.

Mia releases Riley's hand.

The ceramic hand GRABS on to Mia.

RILEY
Mia.

Now we see TWO RILEYS; the REAL Riley, upside down over the bed, and a calm, other-worldly STRANGE RILEY, sitting on the floor, holding Mia's hand.

Mia is overwhelmed.

MIA
Riley.

The eyes of Strange Riley are swollen and his hair is matted.

STRANGE RILEY
*Mia, help me. Please. Help.*

MIA
Riley, come into me. Come in, come in!

STRANGE RILEY
*I can't.*

MIA
Why?

STRANGE RILEY
*They won't let me. Please. Help me!*

Everyone in the room is frozen in time. Jade and Daniel's eyes are closed.

Mia hears sobbing, and turns to find the Strange Man crying in the corner of the room.

Mia turns back to face Strange Riley, but instead ...

A yellow-eyed inhuman beast with teeth like daggers is RIGHT IN HER FACE!

Shocked, Mia yanks her hand away, falling to the floor, sending a tray of food and drink CRASHING.

Mia looks up to see Strange Riley RUN into the corridor.

Mia chases after him.

49 **INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY** 49

Strange Riley is almost down the other end.

Mia struggles to keep up.

Someone brushes past her. Mia turns to see an obese, NAKED MAN walking away.

He stops outside Riley's room before looking back towards Mia.

His eyes are pitch black. His face is blistered and boiled. His genitals are gone, nothing but a bloody patch.

He steps inside.

The real Riley screams from the room, echoing through the corridor.

MIA
No. Riley. RILEY!

Mia runs back.

50 **INT. RILEY'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY** 50

Mia stumbles inside. Her face drops.

Dozens of naked men surround Riley's bed.

We can't see him, there are so many bodies. But we can hear him crying.

His cries grow louder, building to a painful crescendo.

The room dips in and out of darkness.

The men all press together, blistered skin sweats onto blistered skin.

Mia screams, pushing, punching and kicking at the outer layer of men.

They don't react. They just writhe together, moan and watch.

We hear the sounds of unimaginable torment.

It continues to build - louder, then louder.

It's unbearable to listen to.

The men squeal unintelligible words, drowned out by Riley's cries.

It drags on for what feels like forever ... until we hear a familiar voice.

RILEY (O.S.)
**I want it to stop. MAKE IT STOP!**
**MIA, MAKE IT STOP! KILL ME!**

The sounds build until they're deafening.

SNAP.

Mia's eyes shoot open.

She's back where she sat before the hand grabbed her.

The room is back to normal.

The ghosts are gone.

Mia is a mess.

She sobs desperately, barely able to breathe or even think.

Daniel approaches and tries to comfort her, but even his touch cause panic.

Mia pushes him away. Her reaction is extreme, as if it burns to be touched.

MIA
Stop. Stop. Stop.

Her body shakes.

Jade tries to wrap her arms around Mia.

JADE
It’s us. Mia, it’s me and Daniel.

Mia can’t stop crying and trembling.

JADE (CONT’D)
What? What happened?

Mia can’t speak.

After a while, she slowly begins to settle down.

MIA
(whispers)
I saw him.

JADE
Where is he?

MIA
He’s here. I spoke to him. He said they’ll never let him go.

Jade can’t bear to hear this.

MIA (CONT’D)
(distraught)
They’re hurting him Jade. So bad. They’re not gonna stop. They’re never gonna stop.

Mia looks over to the ceramic hand, glistening under the fluorescent lights.

She grabs it and lobs it across the room.

It’s barely damaged.

51 **INT. JADE'S CAR - DAY** 51

Daniel drives. Jade sits in the passenger seat. Mia in the back.

Daniel and Jade, out of focus, are arguing, but the sound is muffled so we can't hear what they're saying.

We push in on Mia, traumatised, her eyes red from crying.

She looks completely isolated and alone.

52 **INT. MIA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT** 52

Mia sits at the kitchen table. She stares at the soup in front of her. Max stands behind her, out of focus.

MAX
You can't just keep leaving, Mia. Not without telling me. Not without saying where you're going. Come on. Mia. Mia!

MIA
Yeah, Dad. Yeah.

He walks up right behind her.

MAX
Come on, Mia. What's going on?

MIA
Just tired dad.

MAX
Mia ...

MIA
Please, dad. Just. I need to be alone for a bit.

MAX
I'm here. I need you to remember that.

MIA
I know that.

Max gives up and leaves the room.

CUT TO:

Mia washes her dish.

She goes to leave the room, but a three legged stool falls over by itself.

WOMAN (O.S.)
Mia.

Mia looks to the back of the room. Shrouded in darkness, in the very corner is the outline of a WOMAN.

Mia runs out of the room.

53 **INT. MIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT** 53

Mia runs to her room and slams the door shut.

She opens it and then slams it again and again.

Mia walks towards her bed.

There's a knock at the door.

The doorhandle rattles.

Mia looks over to it.

It starts to turn.

MIA
LEAVE ME ALONE!

It stops turning.

MAX (O.S.)
Mia.

MIA
Dad?

MAX (O.S.)
I'm coming in, okay?

Mia walks over to the door.

MIA
Okay.

The door opens and the STRANGE MAN BURSTS IN.

Mia screams.

STRANGE MAN
(raspy)
**Come.**

He pulls her towards the door.

Mia pulls herself out of his grip and runs towards her desk.

She reaches for some scissors, but the Strange Man tackles her.

They smash into the desk, spilling stationary everywhere.

He throws her against the wall.

He grabs her by the hair, dragging her towards the door.

STRANGE MAN (CONT'D)
***COME!***

Mia pulls at his hands with all her strength.

She tears away, leaving the Strange Man holding a clump of her hair.

She backs into the corner of the room.

She doesn't even have the energy to stand.

He runs for her again.

MIA
Stop! STOP!

He grabs her hair again, smashing her face-first into the ground.

He drags her towards the door again.

She snatches up the scissors as they pass them.

Just as they go to pass through the doorway, Mia throws her foot up against the frame.

MIA (CONT'D)
DAD! HELP ME! HELP!

STRANGE MAN
***I'M TRYING!***

She stabs the scissors into his legs.

He releases her.

The Strange Man slaps his own face. Again and again.

He's sobbing.

He lunges for Mia AGAIN. He grabs her hands, pinning them down to her sides.

He grabs her neck and squeezes. She fights.

He slaps her face and squeezes again.

She presses her fingers into his eyes. Blood and pus leak out. He doesn't react.

She grabs the scissors and stabs them into his throat.

He releases her. He sits still for a moment.

Mia crawls away.

The Strange Man pulls the scissors out of his neck. He looks at them perplexed.

STRANGE MAN (CONT'D)
***Mia*.**

He plunges the scissors into his neck again and again and again. He drops the scissors, blood pours from his neck. He starts to cry.

Mia stumbles to her feet. She looks to her shaky hands, they're covered in blood.

When Mia looks back - *he's gone*.

54 **INT. MIA'S HALL/LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY** 54

Mia peeks around the corner. At her feet, a bloody trail leads from her room into the living room.

She creeps into the living room following the trail to a lumpy shadow in the corner of the room.

She approaches. It is whimpering and crying, badly injured.

She looks down and sees the three legged dog. The dog gags and gasps, coughing up blood.

Mia looks to the mantle where a torn dog leg sits in front of the framed photograph of her mother.

The leg is dripping blood.

Mia approaches the mantle. She stares into the framed photo.

THE PHOTO

Her mother is missing from the photograph.

It's just an empty background, waiting for someone to sit for a portrait. It's as though Rhea stepped out of the picture. Mia is reflected in the glass.

The candle ignites on its own. The flame flickers blue.

Mia's face distorts as the blue light dances over her.

The unmistakable sound of cooking fills the room - a boiling saucepan. Mia spins.

The kitchen looks exactly as it did when she was younger, before the renovation, before her mother's suicide.

She heads to the kitchen.

Potatoes, peeled and cubed, are bouncing around in boiling water in a saucepan on a hotplate.

She bends down and peers into the oven. A chicken roasts through the oven window.

BANG.

Mia jumps.

The three-legged stool is on it's side in the middle of the kitchen.

Mia cautiously approaches the chair and stands it up. She goes to walk away.

BANG.

The stool is on its side again.

White flakes flutter down from the ceiling, Mia looks around confused.

The flakes stop.

A voice lifts from the sink, an indecipherable whisper.

Mia approaches and looks down the drain.

Out of focus in the background behind her, a body falls into frame and jerks.

It twists and swings from a rope at the neck.

Mia slowly turns.

She sees her dead mother, Rhea, hanging from the ceiling.

[NOTE: This EXACT SHOT is replicated from Scene 2 with Mia in front of her father]

Mia stumbles, her hand to her mouth.

Rhea stares at Mia with swollen eyes, her neck bent at an angle.

MIA
Mu ... Mum.

Rhea's lips move, but no words come out.

MIA (CONT'D)
I can't hear you.

Mia tries not to cry. Rhea continues to speak, but with no sound.

MIA (CONT'D)
What are you saying?

Mia squeezes her eyes shut. Surely she's dreaming, and needs to wake up.

A noise comes from the living room, a cry from the dog.

Mia turns to it.

MIA (CONT'D)
(upset)
Shhhhh.

She looks back to her mother and realizes she's not alone.

Riley stands next to Rhea, holding her hand.

He interprets Rhea's voiceless whispers.

RILEY
*I did this because... it hurt... The only reason... I lasted as long as I did... was for you. I wanted you... to have a mother. I was in so much pain... I had to end that pain... but now I've found peace.*

A tear trickles down Mia's cheek.

RHEA
*Mia... sweetheart... Help Riley find that peace... He's suffering ... but they won't let him die...*

RILEY
Mia. I need you to help me die.

MIA
No. I can't.

Riley's skin is beginning to blister.

RILEY
They won't let me go. I'm in pain. Please. Kill me.

MIA
NO!

Rhea starts gagging, choking as she jerks on the end of the rope.

She kicks out, her fingers fly to the rope at her neck.

She's in her death throes. Her foot kicks the oven. It rattles, the door falls open smashing.

A cookbook falls on the hotplate. It burns.

Smoke fills the room.

Mia covers her mouth and nose as smoke blots out the entire image until all we see is black.

55 **INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - MORNING** 55

Jade pops a pill from a blister pack - painkillers.

She tosses it in her mouth and leans over a water fountain, guzzling at the stream.

She throws her head back and swallows the pill.

Her phone vibrates in her pocket.

It's Mia. She answers.

JADE
Mia.

MIA
Jade.

JADE
You okay?

MIA
I know what to do. I mean, I think I know. Oh Jesus, I think we can save him.

JADE
How?

MIA
Get me.

JADE
From where?

MIA
My house.

JADE
Mia, I feel like we shouldn't ...

MIA
Jade, this is for real. Hurry.

JADE
I don't know.

MIA
Please! For Riley!

JADE
Can it wait until mum's here?

MIA
No! We have to do this quickly.

Jade's mind races.

JADE
(reluctant)
OK. Be there in 10.

Jade hangs up, shoves the phone in her pocket and pokes her head into Riley's room.

He's alone, asleep.

Jade reluctantly heads to the elevator, hits the button and waits.

DING. Doors open. Jade enters.

56 **EXT. HOSPITAL CARPARK - MORNING** 56

Jade gets into her car.

She reverses out of her park and pulls away.

Mia steps into frame. She watches Jade leave.

57 **INT. RILEY'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY** 57

Mia reaches Riley's room. She peers in. Riley's alone.

Mia heads in, shutting the door behind her.

She takes a seat next to Riley's bed.

Mia brushes Riley's fringe out of his face.

MIA
Why'd I let you do it? You poor boy.

She touches Riley's hand.

MIA (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry.

SUE (O.S.)
Mia.

Sue stands in the doorway.

MIA
I'm sorry.

Mia gets up to leave, but Sue stops her.

SUE
It’s okay. Sit.

Mia sits back down. Sue sits opposite her.

SUE (CONT’D)
I was wondering when I was going to see you again. You stopped coming.

MIA
You told me to.

SUE
I know. I was mad.

MIA
You had every right to be. Still do.

SUE
They weren’t your drugs, were they?

Mia shakes her head.

SUE (CONT’D)
Of course, they weren’t. I was mad, Mia. And I blamed you and that was wrong. I know you wouldn’t do anything to hurt him.

MIA
I wouldn’t.

SUE
It’d mean so much to him. You being here. He loved you, Mia. Picking him up, dropping him off. From school, from soccer. His homework.

MIA
I wanted to do it.

SUE
You’re not Riley’s friend, Mia. You’re his sister.

MIA
I love them.

SUE
I know. And they love you.

They sit in silence for a moment.

MIA
Can I have a minute with him?
Alone?

58 **INT/EXT. MIA'S HOUSE/ JADE'S CAR - MORNING** 58

Jade pulls up. She looks out at the house for Mia.

59 **INT. RILEY'S HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING** 59

Mia looks at Riley's arms - they're covered with bite marks and rashes.

When Mia looks back to his face, Riley looks right at her.

MIA
I'm not letting you stay.

Riley stares.

Urine beings to spill into Riley's urinary catheter.

The yellow urine turns red as the catheter fills with blood.

60 **INT. JADE'S CAR - MORNING** 60

Jade calls Mia's phone. It rings out. She honks the horn.

61 **INT. RILEY'S HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING** 61

Riley groans. His fingers open up and spread outwards.

His bones crack as his fingers stretch, becoming impossibly long.

His legs stretch too, his skin sagging.

Riley's hair falls off as he rubs his heads against the pillow.

Riley disappears as he transforms into something else.

His youthfulness decays.

His smooth features roughen.

Riley's skin wrinkles, almost as if he was left in a pool for too long.

The transformation is slow and painful.

And what's left is something horrifying.

Riley's twelve year old body meshed with the body of a hundred year old man.

It looks almost fetus-like.

It is impossibly skinny, impossibly pale.

RILEY
***My ... darling.***

It smiles a toothless grin.

Its voice is strained and coarse.

62 **EXT. MIA'S HOUSE - MORNING** 62

Jade knocks on the front door.

JADE
Mia. Mia!

There's no reply. She pushes on the door.

It swings open.

Almost immediately Jade notices a thick blood trail leading down the hall.

63 **EXT. RILEY'S HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING** 63

RILEY
***Riley ... doesn't want you here.***

MIA
Where is he?

RILEY
***Burning. You saw.***

The Riley creature looks up to the ceiling.

RILEY (CONT'D)
***Touch me, darling. Touch me more. Pleeeasseeee.***

MIA
I'm ending this. Now.

It turns back to Mia, its expression changed.

No more evil glee, just plain evil.

RILEY
***You ... can't take him. He's ours. OURS!***

It falls back into the bed, gasping for breathe, exhausted.

Mia grabs a pair of scissors from the bedside table and holds them to Riley's throat.

64 **INT. MIA'S HALL/LIVING ROOM - MORNING** 64

Jade follows the blood trail to the living room door.

JADE
Mia?

She pulls the sliding door open and gasps.

Jade can't believe what she's seeing.

Max sits upright against the wall in a pool of blood. Stab marks line his chest and neck.

His eyes are gouged out.

A bloody trail leads to Mia's bedroom.

Sound is sucked out of the room. Jade stares, stunned.

Her phone rings.

She doesn't even seem to hear it at first. In a daze, she answers it.

JADE (CONT'D)
(breathless)
Hello?

SUE (O.S.)
Jade. Where are you?

JADE
I ...

SUE (O.S.)
Mia's here. You should be too. She's going through something, Jade.

JADE
Mia?

SUE (O.S.)
She's with Riley. She seems ... depressed. I haven't seen her like that since her mum.

JADE
Are you with them? MUM!

65 **INT. CORRIDOR/RILEY'S HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING** 65

Sue runs up to Riley's room. She opens the door.

The room is empty.

The scissors are on the floor.

SUE
Mia? Riley?

Sue runs back out into the corridor and grabs a nurse by the arm.

SUE (CONT'D)
Where's my son. He was in this room?

Sue leads the nurse to the empty room.

SUE (CONT'D)
He should be in here. He just was.

Sue panics. The nurse searches the room.

SUE (CONT'D)
Where is he?! Aren't you supposed to be watching him?!

NURSE
He was just here.

66 **EXT. HOSPITAL CARPARK - DAY** 66

Jade pulls up in the middle of the car park.

She jumps out of the car and bolts towards the hospital.

Something catches her eye.

Far in the distance, halfway across an oval opposite the hospital is Mia.

Jade explodes into a run.

67 **EXT. OVAL - DAY** 67

Mia has the being stuffed onto a wheelchair.

Its thin legs dangle off the chair.

Its head is bent backwards, drooling.

Mia pushes it down the oval towards a busy main road.

Jade is struggling to keep up, the distance between them is huge.

JADE
MIA!

68 **EXT. MAIN ROAD - DAY** 68

Mia pushes Riley's wheelchair from the oval to the sidewalk. Cars speed past at dangerously high speeds.

Mia watches the road with a blank gaze, wind from the oncoming cars blows her hair wild.

JADE
MIA! STOP! MIA!

Mia stares blank-faced at the road. She can barely hear Jade.

A dog barks. Across the road is the dying dog, alive again.

It barks.

Mia edges the wheelchair closer to the road.

The being trembles in the chair.

Rhea steps into frame behind Mia.

She rubs Mia's shoulders with her hands.

Her neck is bent and bruised.

She leans forward and whispers into Mia's ear.

Mia grips the wheelchair handles tightly.

She closes her eyes. Rhea continues to whisper.

Mia pushes the wheelchair right on the side of the gutter, half an inch away from the road.

The cars scream past, impossibly loud.

Jade's yells are drowned out.

Through closed eyes, tears run down Mia's face.

This is it.

Riley's suffering can end.

69 **EXT. STREET - DAY** 69

A family sedan speeds along the road.

70 **INT. CAR - DAY** 70

A HUSBAND, 30, drives. His WIFE, 28, heavily pregnant, is in the passenger seat. Their daughter, NICOLE, 5, is in the back playing on her phone.

HUSBAND
(stressed)
Breathe.

WIFE
(calm)
I am. We're OK.

HUSBAND
I know we're okay. I just have to ... It's my job to remind you.

WIFE
Did you bring my laptop charger?

HUSBAND
Was it by the door?

WIFE
It was, but then I used it.

HUSBAND
Then I don't think we brought it. I'm sure they'll have one there.

WIFE
It's fine.

There's a slow driving car in front of them. The Husband indicates to overtake.

WIFE (CONT'D)
Don't speed.

HUSBAND
I'm doing 80. This is an 80 zone.

WIFE
I'm just saying.

HUSBAND
I know. You keep right on saying.

The Husband guides the car into the right-hand lane.

A female MAPS voice from the phone mounted on the dash speaks.

PHONE MAPS
In 500 meters, make a slight turn at the bend.

HUSBAND
Almost there. Not bad driving, huh?

WIFE
Great. You should become an Uber driver.

HUSBAND
Maybe I will. What do you think, Nicole?

The little girl in the backseat is busy playing on her phone.

HUSBAND (CONT'D)
Nicole, honey?

NICOLE
What?

HUSBAND
Doesn't matter. Hey, Nic. What do you want? A little brother or a little sister?

NICOLE
Sister!

Husband and Wife exchange a knowing look.

HUSBAND
Well, we'll see what we can do.

PHONE MAPS
Make a slight turn at the bend.

HUSBAND
JESUS!

A body flies out of nowhere and hits the windscreen.

The car skids to a stop.

Husband shoots a panicked look to Wife and Nicole.

HUSBAND (CONT'D)
Are you okay? Are you okay?

Wife grabs Husband's hand.

WIFE
I'm okay.

Nicole bursts into tears.

WIFE (CONT'D)
It's okay, sweetie. It's okay. It's alright.

Husband looks her over for injuries. She's fine.

HUSBAND
Are you hurt? Nicole, are you hurt?

Nicole shakes her head, snot dripping from her nose.

WIFE
What was that?

HUSBAND
I hit someone.

WIFE
Don't say that.

They peer through the cracked glass - it's impossible to see.

HUSBAND
Someone pushed them onto the road.

Husband undoes his seatbelt and opens the door.

71 **EXT. ROAD - DAY** 71

The first thing Husband sees is the wheelchair tipped on its side.

Next to it sits Jade. She is holding Riley in her arms.

Tears stream down her face.

JADE
I had to do it. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

Husband turns to see Mia's body mangled on the road.

JADE (CONT'D)
I had to. I'm so, so, sorry.

Riley rocks back and forth in Jade's arms.

Mia lay lifeless in the road - eyes open, lips apart. Her dead eyes blink. She rises.

The camera pivots upside down and over as she comes to a sitting position.

She looks over at Jade holding Riley by the road. With the image upside down, they appear to be clinging to the sky.

72 **INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY** 72

Mia follows a gurney. She watches from the corridor as paramedics transfer Riley to his room.

Jade runs into Sue's arms, hugs her and cries.

Rhea steps up behind Mia and wraps her arms around her. Mia closes her eyes.

73 **INT. RILEY'S HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS** 73

When she opens her eyes, Rhea is gone. Mia stands in Riley's hospital room. Jade and Sue are gone. A nurse tends to Riley.

Riley's eyelids flutter and roll open. He struggles to focus. The nurse calls a doctor.

MIA
You're better.

The Strange Man stands in the room. He looks directly at Mia. He's not crying anymore - he's smiling.

Mia looks back to the hospital bed, but it's gone. The hospital is gone. She's in ...

74 **INT. MIA'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS** 74

... her living room.

Memorial candles light framed photos of Mia on the mantle.

An elevator chimes. Mia turns to see ...

75 **INT. HOSPITAL ELEVATOR BAY - CONTINUOUS** 75

Jade, Sue and a recovered Riley, enter an elevator.

MIA
Jade!

Mia runs for Jade, but she's not fast enough. The doors close on her.

The lights die. Sound fades.

Mia backs against the wall and slides down. She huddles on the ground in the dark, frightened.

A murmur of distant voices builds. Dim light intensifies.

Someone holds her hand. She gasps.

Soft light silhouettes the figure, indistinct and out of focus.

MIA (CONT'D)
Dad?

The figure is blurry, but, slowly, it pulls into focus.

MIA (CONT'D)
Dad!

The figure forms. It's not Max. It's a STRANGER.

STRANGER
Talk to me.

Mia blinks.

76 **INT. STRANGER'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS** 76

A suburban living room materializes.

The Stranger looks at Mia, exhilarated.

Mia stares back, shocked.

They stare at each other.

Cut to black.

STRANGER (O.S.)
Come in.

THE END